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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE TC 2600 MAILROOM

In re application of

Etsuko KIMURA

Attorney Docket Q55939

Appln. No.: 09/408,265

Group Art Unit: 2742

Filed: September 29, 1999

Examiner: Unknown

For: PORTABLE ELECTRONIC APPARATUS

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application No. 10-161829, published June 19, 1998.
2. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application No. 11-3196, published January 6, 1999.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

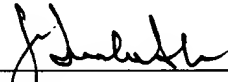
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/408,265

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of the Japanese Office Action dated November 21, 2000, and an English translation of the pertinent portions thereof, which cites and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 10, 2001